

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1483
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
WATER CRISIS
MINATISEN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken various short term and long term measures to tackle the water crisis arising due to deficient rainfall resulting in drought in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the short term measures is likely to solve the water crises; and
- (d) the names of States which have since been benefited?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Government of India have taken various short term and long term measures to tackle the water crisis arising due to deficient rainfall resulting in drought.

A large number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented through the State Governments. The State Governments in turn are implementing these Schemes directly or through Panchayati Raj Institutions, People's Institutions and NGOs etc. Also, various long term and short-term measures have been undertaken. The important measures are as follows:-

Long Term Measures

(i) The major Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented are:-

A. Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP and FPR).

B. Ministry of Rural Development

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).
4. Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme
5. Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water.

C. Ministry of Water Resources

1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

(ii) Other measures/Initiatives

1. Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister and Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission as members has been constituted to look after the drought like situation and scarcity of drinking water.
2. Management Group under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been constituted to monitor and coordinate drought mitigation.
3. Drought contingency Action Plan circulated to concerned States.
4. Construction of large reservoirs with carry over storage and long distance conveyance system.
5. Development of Farm Ponds, desilting and repairs of irrigation tanks.
6. Participatory irrigation Management/Formulation of Water User's Association.
7. Transfer of surface water from surplus river basins to deficit areas.
8. Promotion of sprinkler and drip irrigation measures.

Short Term Measures

1. Identification of suitable locations of tube-wells and its construction.
 2. Taking over of the exploratory wells in drought prone areas by the State Government from Central Ground Water Board.
 3. Early completion of ongoing irrigation and water supply projects so as to immediately exploit their potential.
 4. Deployment of Central Ground Water Board Drilling Rigs.
 5. Planning for efficient and optimal use of scarce water resources.
 6. Department of Drinking water Supply is in close liaison with the States.
 7. Department of Drinking water Supply relaxed the norms in regard to release of funds under its schemes to facilitate completion of projects in time.
 8. Department of Drinking water Supply has relaxed the norms for renovation, restoration and replacement of existing Rural Water Drinking Schemes.
 9. State Governments requested to prepare specific plans to ensure supply of drinking water by roads, rail or sea clearly indicating the source of supply as well as destination and also make arrangements for procurement of storage tanks, trucks, etc.
- (c): The short term measures taken up by Central and State Governments provide relief in affected areas to great extent.
- (d): Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan.